

## Virginia Cooperative Extension Services



### Eat Healthy and Safely

Linda G. Murphy, Senior Extension Agent  
Family & Consumer Sciences

With what seems like an increase in the number of food recalls of fresh produce, some people are asking the question if they should keep eating lettuce, tomatoes, and other fresh produce. According to Dr. Renee Boyer, Food Safety Specialist for Virginia Cooperative Extension, the nutritional benefits of eating fruits and vegetables outweigh the risk of developing a foodborne illness. With the upcoming holidays and exposure to a variety of settings involving food, this may be a good time to review steps to reduce your risk of foodborne illness from fresh produce, so that you and your family can enjoy the foods you traditionally prepare and eat during family gatherings.

At the store, purchase produce that is not bruised or damaged. If buying fresh cut produce, be sure it is refrigerated or surrounded by ice.

At home, chill and refrigerate foods. After purchase, put produce that needs refrigeration away promptly. Fresh whole produce such as bananas and potatoes do not need refrigeration. Fresh produce should be refrigerated within two hours of peeling or cutting. Leftover cut produce should be discarded if left at room temperature for more than two hours.

Wash hands often. Hands should be washed with hot soapy water before and after handling fresh produce, or raw meat, poultry, or seafood, as well as after using the bathroom, changing diapers, or handling pets. Research indicates that frequent hand washing is one of the best methods to prevent the transmission of disease organisms.

Wash all fresh fruits and vegetables with cool tap water immediately before eating. Don't use soap or detergents. Scrub firm produce, such as melons and cucumbers, with a clean produce brush. Cut away any bruised or damaged areas before eating.

Wash surfaces often. Cutting boards, dishes, utensils, and countertops should be washed with hot soapy water and sanitized after coming in contact with fresh produce, or raw meat, poultry or seafood. Sanitize after use with a solution of 1 teaspoon of chlorine bleach in 1 quart of water.

Don't cross-contaminate. Use clean cutting boards and utensils when handling fresh produce. If possible, use one clean cutting board for fresh produce and a separate one for raw meat, poultry and seafood. During food preparations, wash cutting boards, utensils or dishes that have come into contact with fresh produce, raw meat, poultry, or seafood. Do not consume ice that has come in contact with fresh produce or other raw products.

Use a cooler with ice or use ice gel packs when transporting or storing perishable food outdoors, including cut fresh fruits and vegetables.

Foodborne illnesses make the headlines more frequently in part due to the increase in the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables. The fact that many fruits and vegetables are eaten raw adds to the risk. Proper cooking can kill bacteria and meat, poultry or fish which have become contaminated may not cause a risk if properly cooked.

If you are uncertain about how a food has been handled prior to serving, or you are among a higher risk group for foodborne illness, you might want to stick to cooked produce. With all food remember that hot food should be kept hot and cold food cold.

The above tips come from the Food and Drug Administration. They provide updates on these and related issues at the national food safety website, [www.foodsafety.gov](http://www.foodsafety.gov).

Check our website for program information and updates at [www.ext.vt.edu/offices](http://www.ext.vt.edu/offices).

### New Staff Welcomed in 2006

Linda G. Murphy, Unit Coordinator

Several staff changes occurred in the local office during 2006. The Culpeper Unit of Virginia Cooperative Extension welcomes the new faces among its staff.

JoAnna Clark began employment May 25, 2006, as Unit Support Staff. JoAnna most recently was employed in the childcare field as a lead teacher at the Early Learning Center in Culpeper but also possesses the skills needed to fill this support staff role. She is the cheerful greeter when you visit our office. Please introduce yourself when you come.

Peter Callan, Farm Business Management Agent began August 25. Peter has a strong educational foundation in agricultural economics and business. As an undergraduate at Cornell University he learned the skills required to own and operate a successful agricultural business, with a specific interest in dairy farms. He earned his masters degree from Michigan State University where he also studied business and finance to improve his knowledge of agricultural finance. In addition to his education, he worked and owned a dairy farm in New York State, which gave him a unique perspective of the business. After many years as a successful farmer, he was a loan officer with the Farm Service Agency in Pennsylvania. Peter is well-rounded from education and work experiences to fill the position this position for the Northern District counties. He can be reached at the Culpeper Extension Office, 540-727-3435.

Debi Blase began employment on September 25, 2006, as 4-H Program Assistant. She has extensive experience dealing with youth and children as an active parent in 4-H and volunteering as a leader. She is a strong believer in what 4-H brings to the community and has to offer to its children. Debi can be reached at the Culpeper Extension Office, 540-727-3435 or [dblase@vt.edu](mailto:dblase@vt.edu).

[www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu)

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## Virginia Cooperative Extension Services (*Continued*)



# Observations on Rural Living

*Carl C. Stafford, Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources*

A number of our readers are new to the County and could find some of their daily rural life confusing or frustrating here in Culpeper County. Welcome to doing it yourself in the country. You can expect things to be different from the urban setting you possibly came from. There will be no street lights, unless you put one up but realize it kind of ruins star-gazing, if you are in to that. Know that your neighbor's dog is barking for a reason, maybe you can go over and offer to help – could be a deer has raided the garden. Know that our county police force covers 381 square miles and will not be sitting down at the corner just in case you call. They are likely as much as 30 miles away if a call comes in, so be patient and know that this is their community too. Know that you will share the roads with slower moving vehicles, maybe a grain truck, a wagon loaded with hay, a wide farm tractor that can only go 18 mph. Get to know your neighbors. Find ways to build alliances, to provide support for each other, to find common ground and to learn about differences.

When houses are built on County land, expect wildlife, insects and reptiles to be displaced from their homes. At the Extension Office we get calls from people who wonder about the snake (non-poisonous, black) that crawled into their garage or the tiny red bugs (clover mites) that climb up the side of their house and through the screens. We are regularly asked if the spider found inside the house is a brown recluse – none confirmed to date. Know that these and other critters were here first and are not likely to go away. They will just move over if you move in. They will accidentally come into your house, or do it on purpose if they like it better than outdoor living. You are in the country now and can expect many of these encounters to happen.

Many of our roads were not built to handle the speed or volume of today's traffic. Know that the further you go into rural Culpeper the smaller the roads and the slower your speed needs to be. Most of our back roads allow 55 mph but reasonable drivers don't expect to go that fast. We all share the roads, and conflict is inevitable when slower rural traffic is encountered. A farm tractor slowing down to turn in their lane could be a real frustration, but imagine what the driver thinks as you whiz by on the left-hand side. I think most farmers try to time their equipment moves along highways so as to avoid morning and evening traffic, but sometimes they get caught in traffic too.

That farm next door is usually operating 7 days a week, maybe at night and on rainy days. Manure is spread on the land as fertilizer and is regulated under a nutrient management in many cases. This stuff smells, but only for a short time – what else are they going to do with it? Dust is another confusing issue. Farmers often have no choice but to go when they can, and dry conditions are one of the times they can get into fields, plant and harvest crops, make hay and not have wet soils to slow them down. Things change every day on the farm, so if you are frustrated by what they do today, just wait and they will be gone tomorrow to another part of the farm doing something else.

Livestock sometimes break out. No farmer wants their animals away from home and unprotected and at risk. Please call around to your neighbors, if a cow wanders through. They will thank you for seeing and reporting their wayward critter. My wife was driving along a rural County road one day and came upon an entire herd of cattle in the middle of a paved road. She cautiously slowed down; the cattle began to move along ahead of her and then broke into brisk trot. She stayed behind but kept up in the car kind of herding them along, not sure what would happen next. They moved on up the road coming to an open gate and trotted right in, as if they belonged there. They were back home safe and sound as far as she knew, but to be sure she called the neighbor to report what happened.

This time of year you will find some hunting dogs roaming the County. Don't be offended by this, as they are only doing what comes naturally. The dog deer hunting season is relatively short, and we truthfully have too many deer anyway. You can expect to hear gun shots during hunting season and see hunters in their traditional blaze orange. Great recreation, good for the economy, good income opportunities for land owners and we do need to thin the deer herd – did I say that already?

There are plenty of good reasons that rural living is enjoyable. Try not to let small irritations ruin your day. Welcome to the country!

[www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu)

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# Congratulations to a Great Culpeper Farm!

*Belle Meade Farm Awarded Bay Friendly Farm Award for Culpeper County*

On Thursday October 26, 2006, Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District held its Annual Awards Banquet to honor farms, educators, land-owners and businesses that are excellent stewards of our natural resources.

The State's Bay Friendly Clean Water Farm Awards are given to one farm in each county of the Soil and Water District . These farms are exemplary in protection of the state's soil and water quality, with particular emphasis on nutrient management, and are role models that encourage others to follow their excellent examples of stewardship.

In Culpeper County, a Bay Friendly Farm Award was given to the Hawkins and Tingler families, owners of Belle Meade Farm. Among the conservation practices on the farm are:



Some of the dry cows on the farm

- 200 acres of alfalfa
- 150 acres of timothy
- Horse hay
- 90% no till
- Cover Strips
- 30 dry cows
- 72 acre CREP buffer
- 2 animal waste structures
- All perennial streams are fenced for improved water quality
- Current nutrient management plan
- 1350 acres of corns & soybeans, mostly for grain



Culpeper Director Joe Baltimore, State Senator Edd Houck, Stanley Hawkins, George Tingler, Delegate Ed Scott & Culpeper Director Laura Campbell



## Have You Heard? The CREP Program May Expire!

Who doesn't love CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program)? The soil gets to support tree seedlings that become full, beautiful trees. The fish love it when the aforementioned trees grow big and cool the water, decreasing the likelihood of algae growth. Water quality experts love it because the buffer reduces the amount of pollution that goes into the stream. The cows love it because they enjoy clear, clean water out of a trough, instead of the water in the stream. Last, but certainly not least, farmers love it that when combined with Virginia's Best Management Practices Cost Share Program, they are reimbursed for nearly 100% of their costs! What's not to love?

With so much to love, how can such a great opportunity end? Sadly, the end may be coming. Although it is difficult to discern what may come out of Washington, DC one year from now, it does not appear there are any long-term plans for CREP to continue. This could mean that there would not be new contracts available after late 2007. (Any producer under contract will continue to receive their payments for the term of their contract). Any producer who may be contemplating enrolling acreage into CREP may want to consider initiating the planning for such in the near future.

CREP can cost-share planting trees for a riparian buffer, installing a fence to exclude livestock from streams and ponds, all practices related to livestock watering facilities (such as pipeline, trough, spring development & well), filter strips and wetland restoration. In addition, CREP makes rental payments on the acreage that is taken out of production for 10-15 years.

The following chart shows how Culpeper County benefited from CREP from October 1, 2000 through March 31, 2006:

Number of farmers	80
Number of practices	107
Acres of Buffer Restored	646 *
Miles of stream restored	27.04
Tons of soil reduced	1,943.10
Pounds of Nitrogen Reduced	10,570.47
Pounds of Phosphorous Reduced	1,554.48
Total BMP Cost	\$1,052,834.68
State CREP Cost	\$242,362.70
Other Cost-Share	\$373,790.75
Tax Credits	\$515.25

\* Additional 224 acres of buffers in progress but not completed by 3/31/06

If you would like a copy of the manual, or for more information about best management practices, reporting pollution, moving dirt and other issues regarding soil and water conservation, please contact Stephanie Rose DeNicola, Communications Specialist of Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District at (540) 825-8591.





763 Madison Road, Suite 208/209  
Culpeper, VA 22701  
(540) 829-2065 FAX: (540) 829-0297  
[www.healthyculpeper.org](http://www.healthyculpeper.org)

Healthy Culpeper is all about community collaboration and ACTION! We are a community coalition and nonprofit 501(c)(3) comprised of a Board, Community Partners and 4 committees (Adult/Senior, Teen/Prevention Coalition, Youth, and Early Childhood) working together to create a healthy, secure, and educated community.

## ADULT/SENIORS

**MISSION:** To plan, coordinate and promote services and community activities for adults and seniors.

**ACTIVITIES:**

- Serve as the Culpeper County Team for the ***Aging Together Initiative*** ([www.agingtogether.org](http://www.agingtogether.org))
- ***Empowering Culpeper Food Commodities Program***-Food staples distribution each month at Providence Bible Church for low-income families
- ***HealthFest***-A health fair with community services, health screenings, and other information to improve the body, mind and spirit!

## TEEN/PREVENTION COALITION

**MISSION:** To dedicate itself to addressing the unique problems that affect youth by encouraging program coordination and cooperation among the various public and private agencies and organizations that work with youth and maximize local support for prevention!

**ACTIVITIES:**

- ***After School Arts Program (ASAP)***-After-School arts enrichment activities for middle and high school students including drawing, painting, quilting, violin, guitar, creative writing and art samplers; includes an exhibition each term at the Depot (Fall & Spring)
- ***VARA Survey***-Distribution of the Virginia Adolescent Resiliency Assessment to middle and high school students to assess the risk and protective factors present and to develop responses (including programming) in response to the data
- ***Suicide Prevention***-A community awareness and education initiative to prevent suicide among teens and reach out to teens experiencing depression
- ***After-Prom Party***-Development of an alternative drug and alcohol free after-prom party

## YOUTH

**MISSION:** To provide support and resources for continued healthy development of youth by initiating activities and programs that lead to increased confidence and successful decision-making by youth.

**ACTIVITIES:**

- ***Youth Mentoring Program***-A program to pair mentees (ages 4-12) with a trained mentor who makes a year commitment to help assist them achieve their full potential and become active and productive members of the community

## EARLY CHILDHOOD

**MISSION:** To focus on Health, Early Care and Education, Economic Security, and Child Welfare and Parenting to promote Success for Every Child!

**ACTIVITIES:**

- ***Bridges***-A kindergarten orientation program held each summer for students entering kindergarten in the fall
- ***Family Fun Nights***-Family events with activities focused on different topics important to families and young children
- ***For A Child's Health***-A free health fair focused on young children's needs with community resources, health information and fun activities!

## Free Clinic of Culpeper

By Laurel Care

### How much does it cost to go to the doctor?

Can you answer that question, or do you not know the answer because you never get the bill? Maybe your insurance co-pay is \$10. Perhaps you spend as much as \$20 per visit.

Consider life without health insurance. Can you imagine yourself with a severe sore throat, aware that your best friend has strep, and suddenly you need to see a health provider in order to be checked for the infection, then given a prescription for antibiotics?

Or you could go to the emergency room at the hospital and hope that somehow your paperwork gets lost before it finds its way to the billing department. In today's world a visit to the physician will cost you a minimum of \$98. The alternative is just letting the disease take its course.



What many folks don't know is that if you let a simple thing like strep throat go untreated, it can develop into an infection in the cardiac tissues, resulting in permanent heart damage. Wow! That would be life-changing.

And how do you measure the cost of your health?

In July the Antique Marketplace donated 20% of their sales from that month to the Free Clinic. In September the owners of Cameleer and Pepperberries teamed up to host a fashion show from which all the proceeds were donated to the clinic.



The Town and County have also granted funding and Culpeper Regional Hospital continues to support our efforts to provide quality health care for the working uninsured residents of Culpeper. As a result of these efforts the Free Clinic was able to fulfill our goal of hiring a nurse practitioner to work part-time, thus enabling more patients to be seen on site.

Every Tuesday between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. patients may be seen by Leslie Raiford, N.P. These office visits are a welcome addition to our existing appointments on Thursday evenings beginning at 5:00 p.m.

If you or someone you know finds themselves in need of health care, uninsured, a resident of Culpeper, and falling at 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, please consider calling the Free Clinic of Culpeper at **540-825-2252**. After all, your health is priceless.

Free Clinics deliver \$4.56 worth of health care for every dollar spent. Find out how you can volunteer or make a charitable contribution to help Free Clinics serve more than 65,000 uninsured patients annually. Visit: <http://www.vafreeclinics.org>

## Rappahannock-Rapidan Medical Reserve Corps

### Personal Preparedness Is a Personal Responsibility

If someone knocked on your door and said "You have 5 minutes to evacuate", what would you bring with you? If you were told you needed to shelter in place, what do you need to have on hand? To learn the answers to these questions contact The Rappahannock-Rapidan Medical Reserve Corps to schedule a presentation on *Personal and Family Emergency Preparedness* for your group, organization or church. The presentation covers emergencies, from floods to pandemic flu. It can last anywhere from 20 minutes without questions to 45 minutes with questions. Information packets are provided. Call 540-829-7350 extension 132 to schedule a presentation.

**Congratulations** to the following volunteers who completed **Dispensing Site Directors'** training:

Lydia Hansen  
Michael McCaffey  
Donald McCormack  
Michael Roddy  
Richard Bradie  
Thomas Holbach  
Weldon Hamlet

**Congratulations** to the following volunteers who completed **Dispensing Site Registrars'** training:

Carole Roddy  
Catherine Finke  
Diane Bruce  
Kathleen Bradie  
Martha Berkemeyer  
Monica Williams  
Nita Brindley  
Russ Brindley

Please consider joining the Rappahannock-Rapidan Medical Reserve Corps today! You do not need to have medical training, and the time commitment is only 3-6 hours per year. Learn how you can assist your community by going to <http://rrmrc.vdh.virginia.gov>, calling 540-829-7350 or emailing [RRMRC@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:RRMRC@vdh.virginia.gov).

## Culpeper County Department of Health

### Radon Gas - What It is and How to Prevent It

By: Mary K. Collins, M.S. - Health Educator

Radon is a radioactive gas that occurs naturally, due to the breakdown of uranium in soil, rock and water. High levels of this gas have been found in all fifty states and may be present in homes, offices and schools. It is unnoticeable because you cannot see, taste or smell it. Radon can enter buildings through cracks in the foundation or walls, openings around drains, in crawl spaces and sometimes in well water.

Indoor radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, after smoking, according to the Surgeon General. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that 20,000 lung cancer deaths are caused by radon every year. These high numbers have caused radon to be identified as a public health problem by the Surgeon General, the EPA, the National Academy of Sciences, the American Medical Association, the World Health Organization and the American Lung Association.

Radon gas is breathed into the lungs just like air. When the gas breaks down in the lungs, energy is released. This energy release can damage the lung tissue, which can then lead to lung cancer. Not everyone exposed to radon will get lung cancer. Chances of getting lung cancer from radon depend on how much radon is in the home, the amount of time spent in the home, and if the person smokes or has smoked.

Testing for radon in homes is easy and costs very little. Neighboring homes may have very different levels of radon.

Therefore the EPA suggests that every home and apartment below the third level be tested for the presence of radon.

“Do-it-yourself” kits can be purchased at most building supply stores or directly from radon measurement labs. Kits should say “Meets EPA Requirements”. When completing a home test the EPA suggests placing it in the lowest level of the home. After the test is complete it will need to be sent to the manufacturer for analysis. Certified companies are also available to hire for home radon testing. Be sure they are listed with the EPA’s Radon Measurement Proficiency Program.

Four “picoCuries of radon per liter of air” (pCi/l) is the point at which the EPA suggests action be taken to reduce radon levels. Unfortunately there are risks associated with all levels; therefore the EPA also suggests taking action to reduce radon levels in homes with levels between 2 pCi/L and 4 pCi/L.

Actions to reduce high levels of radon include sealing any cracks that allow radon to enter the home and/or reversing the flow of the radon gas by pressurizing the home. This reduction process should be completed by a qualified radon mitigation contractor. The best system can reduce radon levels by 99%. The EPA has prepared a handbook that includes detailed directions on home radon reduction called “Consumers Guide to Radon Reduction – How to Fix Your Home”. It is available at <http://www.epa.gov/radon/images/consguid.pdf>. If you are interested in more information about radon, or to find an EPA listed tester or contractor in your area, please call the Virginia Radon Program at 1-800-468-0138 or visit <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/rad/RHP-RADON.asp>.

## Virginia Department of Health

### PANDEMIC FLU INFORMATION DISTRIBUTED TO SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN THROUGHOUT THE HEALTH DISTRICT

(Culpeper) – In response to increased concerns about a pandemic flu, more than 30,000 informational packets were distributed to school-aged children in the Rappahannock-Rapidan Health District. All children who attend public school, private school or day care in Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock counties received a packet.

Each packet contained an informational letter about pandemic flu, healthy lifestyle habits and a checklist for pandemic flu planning, a pandemic flu brochure and a magnet reviewing healthy habits such as washing your hands, covering your cough and staying home when sick. Pandemic Flu Brochures were distributed to churches, doctors’ offices, libraries, social services and other public locations.

“We are very pleased to have the opportunity to distribute this important information on pandemic flu to school children”, said Kathy Hatter, district emergency planner, “but even more importantly the information will be reaching the children’s families.” Hatter wants all families in the district to receive this information. Home school organizations and other organizations interested in the pandemic flu packets may call 540/829-7350 extension 145 or email [kathy.hatter@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:kathy.hatter@vdh.virginia.gov).

For further information on pandemic flu please visit Virginia’s State website at [www.vdh.virginia.gov/pandemicflu](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/pandemicflu) or the US Government’s website at [www.pandemicflu.gov](http://www.pandemicflu.gov).





Culpeper County Launches Prescription Drug Discount Card That Can Be Used by All Residents

Discount Cards Offering Average Savings Of 20 Percent Off Retail Price

Culpeper County is pleased to announce the launching of a discount card program to help consumers cope with the high price of prescription drugs. The County is making free prescription drug discount cards available under a program sponsored by the National Association of Counties (NACo) that offers average savings of 20 percent off the retail price of commonly prescribed drugs.

The cards may be used by all County residents, regardless of age, income, or existing health coverage, and are accepted at various County pharmacies. A national network of more than 57,000 participating retail pharmacies also will honor the NACo prescription discount card.

“Culpeper County is proud to be one of the counties nationwide participating with NACo,” said Sheila D. Farmer-Dumas, Risk Manager. “The NACo prescription discount card offers significant savings for the uninsured and underinsured residents of our County, and even those fortunate to have prescription coverage can use the card to save money on drugs that are not covered by their health plan. Residents do not have to be Medicare beneficiaries to be eligible for this program.”


Best of all, there is no cost to County taxpayers for NACo and Culpeper County to make these money-saving cards available to our residents.

Cards are available at the following locations: Culpeper County Department of Human Services, Sam’s Place, Culpeper County Health Department, Culpeper County Treasurer’s Office, Culpeper County Library, Culpeper Pharmacy, CVS Pharmacy, Rite Aid Pharmacy, Safeway Pharmacy, Wal-Mart Pharmacy and various business locations throughout the County.

County residents can call toll free 1-877-321-2652 or visit <https://naco.advancerx.com> for assistance with the program.

The NACo prescription discount card is easy to use. Simply present it at a participating pharmacy. There is no enrollment form, no membership fee and no restrictions or limits on frequency of use. Cardholders and their family members may use the card any time their prescriptions are not covered by insurance.” One card per family is all that is needed.

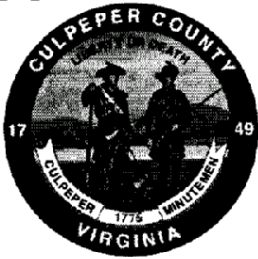
The discount card program is administered by Caremark Rx, Inc.



# Culpeper County, VA

Prescription Discount Card

RXBIN:	004336
RXPCN:	ADV
RXGRP:	RXCULVA
ISSUER:	(80840)
ID:	NAJ52236901



**This plan is not insurance.**

## What is it?

- **A Card to save on prescription drugs**
- **Free Enrollment for County Residents**
- **Average savings of 20%**
- **No limits**
- **No age requirements—you do NOT need to be a Medicare beneficiary to enroll**
- **No income requirements**
- **Family coverage**
- **Use it anytime your prescription is not covered by insurance**
- **Offered jointly by Culpeper County and the National Association of Counties (NACo)**
- **For more information call toll free 1-877-321-2652 or visit <https://naco.advancerx.com>**

Participating Pharmacies:

**CULPEPER PHARMACY**  
261 SOUTHGATE  
Phone: (540) 825-7576  
**CVS PHARMACY**  
150 MADISON RD  
Phone: (540) 825-8322  
**RITE AID PHARMACY**  
590 MADISON RD  
Phone: (540) 727-0483

**RITE AID PHARMACY**  
705 DOMINION SQUARE  
Phone: (540) 825-0703  
**SAFeway PHARMACY**  
309 SOUTHGATE  
Phone: (540) 825-5335  
**WAL-MART PHARMACY**  
801 JAMES MADISON HWY  
Phone: (540) 825-4114

Criminal Justice Services

J. Andrew Lawson, Director

Fiscal Year 2006-End Year Report

Fiscal Year 2007-First Quarter

Growth continues to affect the criminal justice system. Local Probation placements have increased 35% from FY05 to FY06. Culpeper must continue to employ methods that are cost effective and provide safety to its citizens, as growth will continue. Below is a summary of FY06:

	FY06	FY05	+/-
General District Court	449	320	+40%
Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court	142	113	+26%
Circuit Court	37	27	+37%
Transfer In Cases	60	50	+20%
Total	688	510	+35%
Average Daily Caseload	233	211	+11%

79% of offenders were closed successfully as completing all court requirements

\$101,388.11 facilitated in court costs and fines

\$13,151.34 facilitated in victim restitution

12,341 community service hours completed (\$63,556 of labor based on minimum wage)

Age:	Average 29	Oldest 82
Gender:	Male 73%	Female 27%
Race:	White 52% Hispanic 24%	Black 23% Other 1%
Employment:	Employed 72%	Unemployed 28%
Marital Status:	Never Married 56% Separated 10% Widowed 1%	Married 25% Divorced 8%

The first quarter of FY07 has continued to indicate growth. CJS received a total of 233 offender placements in the first quarter alone. At this rate, CJS will receive 932 placements this year. This is a 35% increase from last year. Offenders completed over 3,600 hours of community service thus far. CJS has facilitated the collection of almost \$3,000 in restitution and over \$30,000 in court costs.

The County approved a new Local Probation Officer position for FY07. The individual hired is bilingual. It has been a great help to have a bilingual officer as Hispanic placements have continued. The majority of the Hispanic offenders placed with CJS are for the charge of driving without a license. The Court is ordering these offenders to complete a period of community service. Once the community service is complete and the offender has had no further criminal charges or other difficulties, then they are released from supervision. Appropriate reports to Immigration, Customs and Enforcement (ICE) are made concerning illegal immigrants.

The County also approved a Litter Control Officer for FY07. This individual had been employed part-time with the OPTIONS program for years and became a full-time employee in July 2006, splitting her time between CJS and OPTIONS. Offenders are assigned a section of County roadway for their community service. They are given 3 hours credit for each mile, both sides of the road, they complete. As stated earlier, this program just started and as of the end of September, offenders were given 645 hours of credit, cleaning 223 miles of County roadway and picking up 765 bags of trash.

The Community-Based Corrections Plan and Study continues to move forward. The Department of Corrections Board approved the plan and study in September. The County continues to work with the Department of Corrections in obtaining land at Coffeewood for the new jail.

Have you become physically and/or verbally abusive to your spouse or significant other? Help is available. Contact Culpeper County Criminal Justice Services at 540-727-3450 for a referral to a treatment provider.



# Office of the Commonwealth’s Attorney

Gary Close

## House Forfeiture

“It’s the first time we have ever actually forfeited a house in Culpeper,” said Gary Close, Commonwealth’s Attorney. The result: A check for \$45,069.45 made out to the Treasurer of Virginia and ultimately destined to help law enforcement in Culpeper.

Virginia law allows the Commonwealth to take and forfeit money and or property used in connection with illegal drug distribution. During a drug arrest where narcotics officers believe either money or property, most commonly a car but in this case a house, is used during the sale of drugs, the property is seized. The Commonwealth Attorney then files suit in Circuit Court to forfeit the property.

“Usually the police seize money taken along with drugs,” Close explained. “Sometimes they take a car, but cars are more tricky because of ownership issues.” Virginia law requires that the owner of the car actually know that the car is being used in the illegal narcotics trade. “If the owner is not in the car –or is a parent or wife—it gets harder to prove they actually knew anything. And sometimes they are completely innocent of any knowledge,” Close said.

Such was not the case with the house. The owner knew exactly what was going on. “Afterwards he even apologized to me for doing what he knew was wrong. I think that speaks well of him, and I think he has learned a great deal from this,” Close said. Because it was a house and in poor condition, the Commonwealth worked with local realtor Sue Packer of Jobin Realty to clean up and market it. The forfeiture took place in mid-June. A contract of sale was signed in early September. The closing took place at the end of September.

While most Commonwealth Attorney offices take a percentage of the forfeited property, Close does not.

“I think it is better to get the money back to the men and women on the frontline—law enforcement. And quite frankly, when I forfeit property, I want it to be for the right reasons and not because somehow my office benefits.”

At any one time there are usually five to ten forfeitures the Commonwealth Attorney’s Office is working on.

“It’s not something that you hear a lot about,” Close said, “but I think it helps in deterring drug dealers.”

## Jenkins hired In CA Office

Working in law enforcement is a family affair for Patricia Jenkins. Jenkins, a newly hired secretary in the Commonwealth Attorney’s Office, is married to Town Police Sergeant Scott Jenkins. Both worked at the Sheriff’s Office when they met and later married. Scott has since moved on to the Town Police. Trish, as she likes to be known, went first to the General District Court before landing the job at the prosecutor’s office.

While some might think working in a high stress field like law enforcement can be trying on a marriage, the two newlyweds say it actually helps them. “She is a big support in the tragedies of the work,” Scott explains. “She knows what I have to deal with.” And conversely Trish says that Scott knows the intricacies of the paperwork she has to deal with on a daily basis. The knowledge makes for a more understanding relationship between the two.

And it doesn’t hurt that they both have many common friends in law enforcement. “It’s a pretty tight knit group,” Scott said. “It’s like a big family,” Trish added. Being a big family made the wedding reception something to remember. Reva fire hall was packed with friends and relatives. Many of the friends wore the blue, brown and grey of law enforcement. “We really had a hard time finding a place big enough for everyone,” Trish said.

Both Trish and Scott are lifelong Culpeper residents. Scott played football for Culpeper under coaches Stan Wilson and Danny Crane. Later he worked in the Sheriff’s Office as an investigator and as a team leader for the SWAT team, which he founded. Trish grew up active in her church.

“We are fortunate to have Trish at the office,” Commonwealth Attorney Gary Close said. “And it doesn’t hurt to have a big guy like Scott hanging around either,” he joked.



## Culpeper’s Victim/Witness Program

Culpeper’s Victim/Witness Program provides comprehensive services to victims and witnesses of crime. The program is run by director Mark Nowacki and one part time assistant, Cindy Hedges. They are located within the Commonwealth Attorney’s office. Each year the program provides services to over 500 victims and witnesses of crime in Culpeper County. The Victim/Witness program also sponsors a luncheon every April in commemoration of National Crime Victims Rights Week, as well as co-sponsoring the annual candlelight vigil in October in recognition of National Domestic & Sexual Violence Month. Wayne and Jo English of Clore-English Funeral Home have supported the fight against violence for many years. The Englishes donate time, services and money to help end the violence. Pictured are Wayne and Jo English donating checks to Mark Nowacki and to Melissa DeDomenico-Payne, director of SAFE (October, 2006). For more information, please call 727-3413.





# Culpeper County Treasurer

## 2007 Dog License / Tag Required

David L. DeJarnette  
Culpeper County Treasurer  
(540) 727-3442

Jamie A. Bennett  
Animal Services Director  
(540) 547-4477

State and County law requires that all dogs (and cats) four (4) months old or older be vaccinated with a rabies vaccine that has been approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Such vaccination shall be administered by or under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

Culpeper County requires that every dog, of resident owners or custodians who reside within the boundary limits of the County, be licensed on an annual basis. This includes dogs that reside in the Town or are exclusively house pets. Dogs that are trained to serve as guides for the blind, deaf or hearing-impaired persons are exempt from licensing requirements.

You may purchase your dog license/tag by mail or in person at one of two locations: Culpeper County Treasurer's Office, Courthouse Building, 135 W. Cameron Street Culpeper VA or Department of Animal Services, 10144 James Monroe Highway Culpeper VA. **You must present evidence of vaccination** and pay a licensing fee. The current fees are **\$10.00 for a sexed dog** or **\$5.00 for an unsexed dog**. Kennel license tags are sold at Treasurer's Office only and are sold in blocks of ten (10) for \$50.00. Evidence of vaccination for each dog must be presented, and if the number of dogs owned is less than ten, the remainder of the tags will be held in the Treasurer's Office until additional dogs are acquired.

**The dog license year runs from January 1 to December 31 of each year. The licenses go on sale beginning November 1 of the preceding year and must be purchased by January 31 of the license year.**

This law is designed to help prevent rabies outbreaks. The license/tag is proof that your dog has been vaccinated. The tag also identifies your dog should it get lost. The Treasurer's Office maintains a list of license/tag numbers and can assist Animal Services in notifying you if your dog is missing or found. Alarming, hundreds of dogs throughout the state are humanely destroyed each year due to lack of identification.

This information and application form is also available online on our County website located at [www.culpepercounty.gov](http://www.culpepercounty.gov) ; click on "County Treasurer" on left-hand column and then click on "Pet Licensing".

**TO PURCHASE YOUR DOG LICENSE BY MAIL (OR IN PERSON THROUGH ANIMAL SERVICES), PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING APPLICATION (ONE FOR EACH DOG), ATTACH A COPY OF THE RABIES CERTIFICATE, AND MAIL TO:**  
**Culpeper County Treasurer**  
**PO Box 1447**  
**Culpeper, VA 22701-6447**  
Make check payable to **Culpeper County Treasurer.**

OWNER' S LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_, FIRST: \_\_\_\_\_ MIDDLE: \_\_\_\_\_

CO-OWNER'S LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_, FIRST: \_\_\_\_\_ MIDDLE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

PET'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ BREED: \_\_\_\_\_ COLOR: \_\_\_\_\_

SEX: ☐ MALE \$10.00      ☐ FEMALE \$10.00      ☐ UNSEXED (Neutered or Spayed) \$5.00

----- (For OFFICE Use Only - RABIES CERTIFICATE VERIFICATION and PAYMENT INFORMATION) -----

LICENSE YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_

DOG TAG ISSUED: \_\_\_\_\_ RABIES CERTIFICATE ATTACHED: \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRATION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK #: \_\_\_\_\_ or CASH ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

DEPUTY'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_



From Your Commissioner of the Revenue

Terry L. Yowell



2006 PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX

Since receiving our 2006 Personal Property (PP) tax bills, many of you have asked me to explain what happened this year. As always, I will try to provide any information you ask from me, but please keep in mind that the changes we have all experienced this tax year were not due to any value or assessment change made by the Commissioner’s office.

All Personal Property is today, and has been in the past, valued at 100% Fair Market Value (FMV). According to the Code of Virginia, all property, unless otherwise exempt by Code, is taxable. As taxpayers of this Commonwealth, the fact that our property (real and personal) must be valued at specific intervals is a protection provided by the Constitution of Virginia. We have a Constitutional right that ensures that our property will be valued with respect to like property. As you read on, you will see there is a difference between the word “VALUED” and the word “ASSESSED”.

Some of you may remember that prior to tax year 2000, personal property was assessed using a ratio of 40%. This means property was still **VALUED** at 100% FMV but the **ASSESSED** value showing on the tax bill reflected 40% of that FMV. Ratio assessments were, and still are, allowed by Virginia law. However, I don’t know of any locality that currently uses this method.

After the Personal Property Tax Relief legislation was enacted in tax year 1998, the Commonwealth determined that ratio assessments were difficult to use when attempting to calculate the Personal Property Tax Relief (PPTR) reimbursement to the locality. Therefore, all localities were asked to bill taxpayers using an assessment of 100% of FMV as opposed to a ratio assessment. At that time, the Board of Supervisors **Equalized** the Tax Rate. Prior to tax year 2000, the Personal Property tax rate was \$6.25 per assessed hundred (40% of FMV) and for tax year 2000, the tax rate was adjusted to \$2.50 per assessed hundred (100% FMV). When you calculate, you will see that the tax dollar remains the same, hence the term **Equalized**. Example of a vehicle valued at \$5000 in tax year 1999 as compared to tax year 2005:

**40% Ratio Assessment x Tax Rate = Bill**    **100% Assessment x Tax Rate = Bill**  
2,000 (5,000 x .40)    x 6.25 = \$125.00                      5000    x 2.50 = \$125.00

In accordance with the Code of Virginia §58.1-3503, Tangible Personal Property is valued at Fair Market Value as of January 1<sup>st</sup> :....*Automobiles.... shall be valued by means of a recognized pricing guide.* The recognized pricing guide largely used throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia is the National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA). When researching vehicles in this guide, you will see 4 categories of values: MSRP (Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price), Retail, Trade and Loan. Each of these categories reflect an accumulation of market trends prior to the date each guide is published. Tax day, by Code, for Culpeper County is January 1<sup>st</sup>, therefore, the January issue of NADA is used to help assist this office arrive at a Fair Market Value (per Code) as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. Most localities throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia depend on the column titled “Trade” to be a “Fair” reflection of what a willing buyer and a willing seller (under no duress) would agree to. Keep in mind, the column titled “Retail” is also a reflection of sales in an open market. Some speculate that the column “Retail” may include conditions such as creative financing and/or negative equity. This may be one of the reasons why many assessment authorities believe the column titled “Trade” more closely reflects Fair Market as opposed to Retail. The column titled “Loan” typically reflects the percentage of FMV used by financing institutions for lending purposes.

Now, I will try to explain what I know about what happened with our Personal Property tax bill this year. First, as required by law, all property was valued at FMV. This FMV displays as the assessed value on our tax bill. I believe the Board of Supervisors (BOS) held a public hearing on April 18<sup>th</sup> to present the proposed tax rates to the general public for comment. On April 25<sup>th</sup>, the BOS adopted a tax rate increase from \$2.50 per assessed hundred to \$3.50 per assessed hundred for the general class of personal property. This class includes cars, light trucks, large trucks, road tractors, trailers, motorcycles and business personal property. The tax rate for recreational type property such as campers, boats and motor homes remained unchanged at \$2.50 per assessed hundred. The rate for Mobile Homes remained unchanged at \$0.89 per hundred which is equal to the real estate rate and the rate for Machinery and Tools, used in Manufacturing, also remained unchanged at \$2.00 per assessed hundred. For tax year

2006, the ratio assessment of Aircraft was done away with and the BOS equalized the tax rate at \$0.63 per assessed hundred (previously 25% of FMV at tax rate of \$2.50/now 100% of FMV at \$0.63).

The \$1.00, per assessed hundred, increase in tax rate (**\$2.50 last year compared to \$3.50 this year**) **represents a 40% increase in tax rate. In conjunction with that change, the Personal Property Tax Relief (PPTR) as we knew it, ended in tax year 2005.** For tax year 2006 and forward, all local governing bodies throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia now receive a fixed dollar amount which can only be used to relieve taxpayers of their local personal property tax on qualifying vehicles. Remember, this is no longer a reimbursement program where the Commonwealth pays 70% of the local tax on each qualifying vehicle, on behalf of the taxpayer, to Culpeper County.

The Board of Supervisors must now distribute this fixed dollar amount equally, per Code of Virginia, among qualifying vehicles. Considering the fact that Culpeper County is considered a high growth locality, the distribution of this fixed dollar amount will become smaller and smaller each year. **Had the tax rate remained unchanged for qualifying vehicles, the PPTR would have been estimated at 54%. This means if you were taxed with a vehicle as of January 1<sup>st</sup> assessed at \$20,000, the maximum relief would have been \$270.00.**

**Assessed Value    x    Tax Rate = Subtotal <Less> PPTR (at 54%)    =    Tax Bill**  
20,000                      x    2.50                      = \$500.00    - 270.00 (500 x .54)                      =    \$230.00

More importantly, you have asked me to explain how your personal property tax bill (for tax year 2006) went up this tax year as opposed to last tax year (tax year 2005) when the value of you vehicle went down. Let’s use a random vehicle for demonstration purposes:

2001 Toyota Highlander:  
2005 Assessed Value = 18,600 and 2006 Assessed Value = 16,665

**Tax Year 2005**  
**Assessed Value    x    Tax Rate = Subtotal <Less> PPTR (70%)    =    Tax Bill**  
18,600                      x    2.50                      = \$465.00    - 325.50                      =    \$139.50

**Tax Year 2006 with PPTR cap impact and no increase in tax rate:**  
**Assessed Value    x    Tax Rate = Subtotal <Less> PPTR (54%)    =    Tax Bill**  
16,650                      x    2.50                      = \$416.25    - 224.78                      =    \$191.47

**Tax Year 2006 with increased tax rate (from \$2.50 to \$3.50) and resulting PPTR**  
**Assessed Value    x    Tax Rate = Subtotal <Less> PPTR (now 38%)    =    Tax Bill**  
16,650                      x    3.50                      = \$582.75    - 221.45                      =    \$361.30

The above examples demonstrate how the combination of the PPTR cap from the General Assembly and the increased tax rate adopted by the BOS for tax year 2006 resulted in the increase in your 2006 Personal Property tax bill for the same vehicle. **In tax year 2005, we paid 30% of our total tax bill (relieved of 70%) for qualifying vehicles (up to the first 20,000 value) and for tax year 2006, we now pay 62% of our tax total bill (relieved of 38%).**

As always, my staff and I are here to assist you and I will do everything I can to answer your questions. As Commissioner of the Revenue, I am responsible, by law, for the valuation (assessment) of property but I have no authority over the tax rate nor do I have any authority over the Personal Property Tax Relief program.

The BOS are responsible for the operations of the County and can better explain the needs of this community and what authority they have to generate the revenue necessary to fund the needs. If you have questions or concerns about the tax rate, the person best able to assist you is your representative on the Culpeper County Board of Supervisors. The PPTR is a program adopted by and mandated by the General Assembly. If you need more information about how the PPTR program changed, you will need to contact your representatives in the General assembly.

I hope this explanation has been helpful to you in understanding what happened with the change on your tax bill. If you have additional questions please do not hesitate to call, email or come by the office.





# CULPEPER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

H. LEE HART, SHERIFF



### *Local Heroes Recognized*

Local Heroes John Yarnall, Claude Minnich and Larry Dempsey were recognized by Sheriff Hart on September 6, 2006, for their heroism on July 5, 2006, when they assisted in the apprehension of a suspect during an ongoing robbery at the Food for Thought Store on East Davis Street.

### *Nine Culpeper Deputies Named Master Deputies*

Congratulations to Deputy Chris Bream, Deputy David Payne, Deputy Derek Emmel, Deputy Bernie Feaganes, Deputy Chad McKnight, Investigator Frank Piazza, Investigator Leilani Stanley, Investigator Steve St Clair and Investigator James Mack who were named Master Deputies on October 4, 2006. The Master Deputy Program is a career development program which provides guidance, recognition of accomplishments and financial incentives for non-supervisory deputies at the Culpeper County Sheriff's Office. The Master Deputy Program provides a distinct career track for deputies who want to go beyond the minimum requirements of their jobs and who want to be recognized and rewarded for their extra efforts.

### *Citizens' Law Enforcement Academy #5 Graduates*

Congratulations to the Culpeper County Sheriff's Office Citizens' Law Enforcement Academy #5. The 5<sup>th</sup> Session graduated on November 30, 2006, at the Inn at Kelly's Ford with keynote speaker Mike Brown from the National Sheriffs' Association. The 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the Citizens' Law Enforcement Academy is set to begin in March 2007. For more information or an application call (540) 727-7520.



## Culpeper Regional Airport



On a rather sad note, Nancy Lynn, a performer in our annual Air Fest this year, succumbed to injuries that she sustained during a crash while performing in the show.

Along with her son Peter, they made up the only Mother/Son Aerobatics Team performing in the U.S. Peter was narrating her show as the crash unfolded. This was a tragedy felt by all of us who put our heart and soul into presenting the joy and awe of aviation to the general public. Peter is a bright and determined young man. Even in the face of such adversity, he kept his composure and calmed the stunned audience.

We owe it to Nancy and Peter to continue spreading the word of aviation, encouraging people to take part in our Air Fests and introducing them to the world above the ground.

If you wish to find out more about the legacy of this extraordinary woman or how you can help Peter, please visit their website at : **[www.lynnaviation.com](http://www.lynnaviation.com)**

As always, if you would like to find out anything about our facility or White Hawk Aviation (Aircraft Maintenance and Flight School), just call us at the Airport, 540-825-8280. We are working together to help make your Aviation Dreams come to life.

## Civil Air Patrol

Civil Air Patrol is looking for a few young people !

Civil Air Patrol is the Auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, with National Headquarters at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama. Cadet programs introduce young people to military life and customs, offer multi-step leadership training, and training in teamwork skills. There are flight opportunities and training in search and rescue missions.



The Minute Man Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol meets at the Culpeper Airport. The program is open to youth between the ages of 12 and 18 and adults of all ages. The Civil Air Patrol performs three missions: Search and Rescue, Aerospace Education, and Emergency services. Cadets and Seniors get training in all three areas and participate in related activities.

The Minute Man Squadron meets Tuesdays at Culpeper Airport between 1900 and 2130. Contact Captain TR Proven at 202-493-9921 for more information.



Could this be you?

# CULPEPER MINUTES

A Publication of  
The Culpeper County  
Board of Supervisors



**The Administration Building**  
302 North Main Street  
Culpeper, VA 22701

**Phone: 540-727-3427**  
**Fax: 540-727-3460**

**email: [dhoffman@culpepercounty.gov](mailto:dhoffman@culpepercounty.gov)**

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WINTER 2007

CULPEPER MINUTES

ISSUE TWENTY-SIX

*Work Where You Live*

## CulpeperJobs.com



### 1. What is CulpeperJobs.com?

CulpeperJobs.com is an online employment resource which gives you, the job seeker, an opportunity to go to a single source and browse job openings at the leading employers in the Culpeper area. The home page features a calculator that will help determine your cost of commuting, which with the rising cost of fuel, makes working where you live increasingly attractive.

### 2. How does CulpeperJobs.com work?

Local employers, all of which are members of the Culpeper Chamber, sponsor the site and list job openings. You can link directly from CulpeperJobs.com to a number of local businesses' websites to view their entire list of available jobs or you can browse individual job listings that fall within your area of expertise right on CulpeperJobs.com.

### 3. How much does it cost to use CulpeperJobs.com and is the application process secure?

There is no cost or obligation to use CulpeperJobs.com. All information placed on the site by the user is strictly confidential and secure.

### 4. Where can I find more information about CulpeperJobs.com?

Go to CulpeperJobs.com and browse through the job listings and learn more about companies located in the area that have career opportunities. If you do not have a computer, visit the Culpeper Chamber of Commerce at 109 South Commerce Street or the Culpeper County Library at Southgate Shopping Center for computer access to CulpeperJobs.com or call the Chamber at 540-825-8628.

### 5. Why was CulpeperJobs.com developed?

CulpeperJobs.com was developed as part of the Culpeper County Chamber of Commerce's "Work Where You Live" initiative. This is an effort to connect Culpeper County residents who would like to work in the community with the businesses that have job opportunities. The Chamber believes there are significant benefits to an individual, their family, and community when they work where they live.

**Telephone Number for Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT): 540-829-7500**  
**To report Road Hazards or Snow-Flood Conditions: 800-367-7623 Toll Free**